



ecology and environment, inc.

111 WEST JACKSON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604, TEL. 312-663-9415

International Specialists in the Environment

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



326407

TO: Colleen Hart, U.S. EPA
FROM: James Christensen, FIT
DATE: October 25, 1991
SUBJECT: Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial Highway Site,
Gary, Indiana
IND980608210/F05-9104-094/FIN0568PA

The Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial Highway (Parcel) site is located approximately 1,400 feet northeast of 5900 Industrial Highway between the Norfolk and Western Railroad grade and the Conrail Railroad grade, in Gary, Indiana. The site is a railroad right-of-way owned by Penn-Central Corp. and is easily accessible by crossing any of the railroad grades that surround the site. The site area is well vegetated and is also a wetlands area designated by the United States Department of the Interior.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management conducted an on-site investigation at the Parcel site in 1986 as part of a preliminary assessment for the Parcel site. There is no information indicating that any dumping has ever occurred on the site. No sampling has been conducted on the site. If a potential for contamination exists on the site, it is, according to the preliminary assessment, most likely to be traceable to the National Priorities List Midco II site. Midco II allegedly discharged liquid wastes, possibly containing cyanide, arsenic, and lead, to the Parcel site via a drain pipe leading from the Midco II site to the Parcel site.

On April 21, 1987, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) inspected the Parcel site and discovered no evidence of hazardous waste activity on the site. FIT observed no wastes other than

one junked car on the site. On May 20, 1991, FIT conducted an off-site reconnaissance inspection of the site and recorded no evidence of hazardous waste activity on the site.

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M E M O R A N D U M

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On May 20, 1991, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted an off-site reconnaissance inspection of the Parcel Behind 5900 Industrial Highway (Parcel) site in Gary, Indiana. FIT observed no evidence of hazardous waste activity on the site. An Indiana Department of Environmental Management Inspection in 1986 indicated that no dumping has occurred on the site. No sampling has been conducted on the site, but it has been alleged that Midco II discharged liquid wastes, possibly containing cyanide, arsenic, and lead, to the Parcel site via a drain pipe leading from the Midco II site to the Parcel site. A FIT inspection in 1987 discovered no evidence, other than one junked car, of hazardous waste activity on the site.

Based on FIT file information and field observations, and the fact that any wastes on the Parcel site would most likely be traceable to the Midco II site, FIT recommends that the Parcel site be incorporated into the Midco II site investigation and remediation activities.

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